

What is claimed is:

1. A polymeric compound, comprising:
 - (a) a thermoplastic polymer capable of forming an article via extrusion
5 or molding;
 - (b) glass microspheres; and
 - (c) metallic flakes.
2. The compound of Claim 1, wherein at least some of the glass
10 microspheres are coated with a metal.
3. The compound of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the metal is aluminum
and wherein the metallic flakes are aluminum.
4. The compound of Claim 1 or Claim 2 or Claim 3, wherein the
15 thermoplastic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyolefins,
polyhaloolefins, polyamides, polyesters, polycarbonates, polystyrenes,
polysiloxanes, and blends, mixtures, and alloys of them.
5. The compound of Claim 1 or Claim 2 or Claim 3, wherein the
20 thermoplastic polymer is acrylic-styrene-acrylonitrile.
6. The compound of Claim 1, wherein the metallic flakes are present in
an amount of from about 0.2 to about 1.5 weight percent of the compound.
25
7. The compound of any of Claims 1-6, in the form of a molded or
extruded article.
8. The compound of any of Claims 1-7, further comprising colorant.
30

9. An article comprising the compound of any of Claims 1-6 or Claim 8.
10. The article of Claim 9, wherein the article is a motor vehicle part.
- 5 11. The article of Claim 10, wherein the article is a side mirror.
12. The article of Claim 9, wherein the article is safety restraint or guide.
- 10 13. The article of Claim 9, wherein the article is a decorative embellishment for an intentionally dimly-lit interior location.
14. The article of Claim 9, wherein the article is a location or directional marker for exterior locations.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 13 January 2005 (13.01.05);
original claims 1-14 replaced by amended claims 1-12]

What is claimed is:

1. A retroreflective article, comprising:
a polymeric compound, comprising:
 - 5 (a) a thermoplastic polymer capable of forming the article via extrusion or molding;
 - (b) glass microspheres; and
 - (c) metallic flakes,wherein the glass microspheres and metallic flakes impart retroreflectivity to
10 the article, and
wherein the retroreflectivity resides on all surfaces and throughout bulk of the article.
2. The article of Claim 1, wherein at least some of the glass microspheres are
15 coated with a metal.
3. The article of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the metal is aluminum and
wherein the metallic flakes are aluminum.
- 20 4. The article of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyhaloolefins, polyamides, polyesters, polycarbonates, polystyrenes, polysiloxanes, and blends, mixtures, and alloys of them.
- 25 5. The article of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is acrylic-styrene-acrylonitrile.
6. The article of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the metallic flakes are present in
an amount of from about 0.2 to about 1.5 weight percent of the compound.
- 30 7. The article of Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the compound further comprises colorant.
8. The article of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the article is a motor vehicle
35 part.

9. The article of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the surfaces comprise flat surfaces, simple curved surfaces, compound curve surfaces or combinations thereof.

5 10. The article of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the article is safety restraint or guide.

11. The article of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the article is a decorative embellishment for an intentionally dimly-lit interior location.

10

12. The article of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the article is a location or directional marker for exterior locations.